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CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE

February 5, 2019

Mr. Randy Evans
Executive Director
Iowa Freedom of Information Council
P.O. Box 8002
Des Moines, IA 50301

Dear Mr. Evans,

House rules regarding the press mostly deal with behavior and expectations, but do not offer a definition.

For further guidance, I have begun referring to the Congressional rules that govern their press galleries to ensure consistency. These rules offer reasonable guidelines and are considered the “gold standard” according to former White House Correspondents Association President Jeff Mason. Those rules limit gallery membership to “bona fide correspondents of repute in their profession.” Additionally, it requires an individual to be a “full-time, paid correspondent who requires onsite access to members and staff.” Congress does not credential outlets like Mother Jones, Breitbart, or other similar organizations.

Online outlets are not excluded and no one has been denied credentials based on content. We have not credentialed any “non-traditional media” since 2015.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carmine Boal
Chief Clerk